

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

DEC 23 2005

**FAX TRANSMISSION****DATE:** December 23, 2005**PTO IDENTIFIER:** Application Number 10/024,625 - Conf. No. 3998**Inventor:** Ian D. McRury et al.**MESSAGE TO:** US Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop Amendment**FAX NUMBER:** (571) 273-8300**FROM:** NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

Ronald E. Cahill

**PHONE:** (617) 439-2000**Attorney Dkt. #:** 22956-71**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):** 10**CONTENTS:**Amendment Transmittal Letter (1 page)  
Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action (8 pages)

If your receipt of this transmission is in error, please notify this firm immediately by collect call to sender at (617) 439-2000 and send the original transmission to us by return mail at the address below.

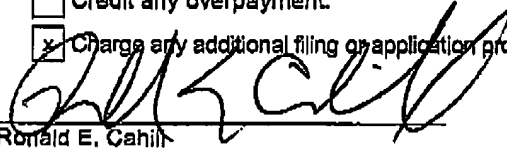
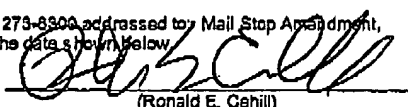
This transmission is intended for the sole use of the individual and entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. You are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or duplication of this transmission by someone other than the intended addressee or its designated agent is strictly prohibited.

**NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP**World Trade Center West, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604  
Telephone: (617) 439-2000 Facsimile: (617) 310-9000

1491148.1

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 23 2005

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 22956-71	
Application No. 10/024,625		Filing Date December 18, 2001		Examiner Darwin P. Erez	
				Art Unit 3731	
Applicant(s): Ian D. McRury et al.					
Invention: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD					
<b>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS</b>					
X Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and Response to Election/Restriction Requirement					
X The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	21	- 24 =	0	x 50.00	0.00
Independent Claims	3	- 4 =	0	x 200.00	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee:					0.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>141449</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Ronald E. Cahill Attorney Reg. No.: 38,403				Dated: <u>December 23, 2005</u>	
NUTTER MCLENNEN & FISH LLP World Trade Center West 155 Seaport Boulevard Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604 (617) 439-2000					
Amendment Transmittal					
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.					
Dated: December 23, 2005				Signature:  (Ronald E. Cahill)	

1491152.1

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**DEC 23 2005**

Docket No.: 22956-71

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Ian D. McRury et al.

Confirmation No.: 3998

Application No.: 10/024,625

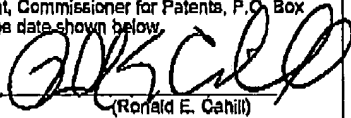
Art Unit: 3731

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: Darwin P. Erez

For: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to (571) 273-8900 addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 23, 2005 Signature: 

(Ronald E. Cahill)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

Before substantive examination on the merits, please amend the claims as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.